

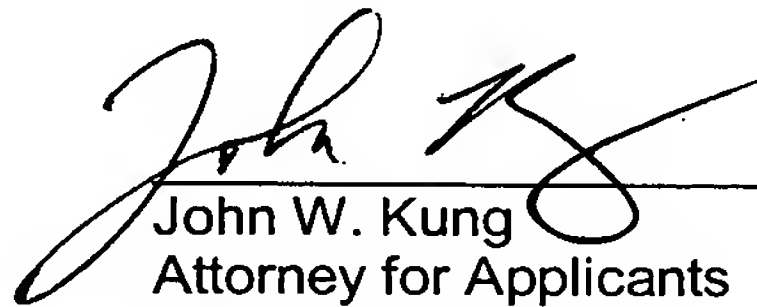
Remarks

Claims 1 – 22 are pending in the case. Please amend Claims 1–10, 13–16 and 19. Applicants have amended such Claims to better conform them to U.S. practice. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments do not introduce any new matter. Applicants also request that Claims 20 and 21 be cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute such cancelled claims in a future application.

In view of the above, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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